AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition for the anodizing treatment of a magnesium alloy, ~~characterized in that it consists of~~ wherein it comprises an aqueous solution, containing a niobium salt and hydrofluoric acid, the pH of which solution is maintained at a value between 7 and 10.

2. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the niobium salt is chosen from oxides and fluorides.

3. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the niobium salt is niobium pentoxide.

4. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein it contains a zirconium salt.

5. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the zirconium salt is chosen from oxides and fluorides.

6. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the zirconium salt is ZrF_4.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pH is between 8 and 9.5.

8. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it contains phosphoric acid and/or boric acid.

9. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is supersaturated with niobium pentoxide.

10. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it furthermore contains NH_4OH or an amine for correcting the pH.

11. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it contains:

- from 0.01 to 0.04 mol/l of niobium pentoxide;
- from 20 to 50 ml/l of hydrofluoric acid;
- up to 0.04 mol/l of zirconium fluoride;
- from 50 to 70 g/l of H_3PO_4;
- from 30 to 70 g/l of H_3BO_4; and

- the required amount of a 28% aqueous ammonia solution for adjusting the pH to a value between 7 and 10.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a magnesium alloy, ~~consisting in~~ comprising making said alloy undergo electrolysis in an electrochemical cell in which said alloy functions as anode(+), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

- the electrochemical cell contains, as electrolyte, a composition according to the invention at a temperature between 20°C and 40°C; and
- an initial voltage sufficient to create a current density between 1.5 and 2.5 A/dm^2, is applied to the cell and then the voltage is progressively increased up to a value between 240 and 330 V in order to maintain the initial current density.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a DC source connected in series to an AC source is used as power supply for the electrochemical cell so that the I_{AC}/I_{DC} ratio is about 0.15 to 0.30.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the duration of the electrolysis is from 5 to 30 minutes.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, during a preliminary step, the alloy part to be treated is subjected to a surface cleaning operation.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 15, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein cleaning is a mechanical cleaning operation using abrasive disks, followed by a degreasing operation in a hot phosphate/carbonate solution, and by a pickling operation in a dilute phosphoric acid/hydrofluoric acid solution, or a degreasing operation followed by a pickling operation.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the electrolysis is followed by a plugging treatment.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the plugging treatment consists of an alternation of steps in which the part is immersed in a bath and then left in air, these steps being followed by annealing at 75° - 150°C in oxygen for a few hours.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the plugging is carried out using an aqueous acid solution containing niobium pentoxide, cerium nitrate and zirconyl nitrate, or a hot aqueous Na_2SiO_3 solution, or an epoxy/polyamide varnish or an epoxy/amine paint.